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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 000387

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: UNAMI DONOR BRIEFING ADDRESSES IRAQ SECURITY AND REENTRY PLANS

REF: AMMAN 8022

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) A January 13 UNAMI donor briefing addressed security and UN strategic planning. While UNSECOORD provided a dismally pessimistic assessment of the current security situation in Iraq, UNAMI officers were optimistic about a return to Iraq in the future. They also expressed concern that appropriate coordination take place between the UN and Iraqi authorities on humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. The UNDG Strategic Planning Advisor briefed attendees about the UN's ambitious strategic plan for Iraq. End Summary.

UNAMI SECURITY BRIEFING: PESSIMISTIC

2. (SBU) The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) held its second donor briefing on January 13 in Amman. UNSECOORD Field Security Coordination Officer, Jean Luc Massart, assessed the current security situation throughout Iraq. Massart presented a dismal security assessment, based on ethnic tensions in Erbil, increases in attacks against Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) forces in the Sunni triangle area, more sophisticated forms of attacks and expansion in the number of attacks on aircrafts. Massart added that there are growing fears that a light plane or helicopter packed with explosives may be used in the future as an attack device as well as a high-profile kidnap threat which could prove highly embarrassing to the CPA. He concluded by saying that the level of insurgents' determination is on the increase, Saddam's capture has not translated into the expected decrease in attacks and that he did not foresee significant improvements in the situation. Massart added that the UN will conduct a detailed security assessment at the end of January.

UNAMI OFFICERS OPTIMISTIC

3. (SBU) At a post-briefing meeting, UNAMI coordinator Maggs Mac Guinness said she was more optimistic than she had been in early December. She believed the naming of Special Representative Ross Mountain was a positive step and was looking forward to his Amman visit in late January. She expected Mountain to arrive in Larnaca, Cyprus on January 24. She expressed hope that a clearer picture for the UN effort in Iraq would result after the January 19 Security Council meeting. In spite of the gloomy UNSECOORD briefing, Mac Guinness said the UN has a history of working under tough security conditions and was sure proper security measures could be in place in Iraq to allow UN personnel to return eventually.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: PROGRESS

4. (SBU) UN Development Group Strategic Planning Advisor Michael Dalton shared preliminary results of the ongoing UN strategic planning exercise. He outlined the focus of UN rebuilding in Iraq as a program of "10 UN clusters" each headed by a task manager. The clusters are: 1. Education and Culture; 2. Health; 3. Water and Sanitation; 4. Infrastructure and Housing; 5. Agriculture, Water Resources and Environmental projects; 6. Food Security; 7. Mine Action; 8. Internally Displaced People/Refugees; 9. Governance and Civil Society; and 10. Human Development/Poverty Reduction. Along with these ten clusters, the strategic plan will also include five working themes: 1. Security; 2. Human Rights; 3. Gender; 4. Environment; 5. Employment Generation. Mac Guinness is worried that there could be confusion throughout Iraq if the UN does not coordinate its efforts with other humanitarian agencies and NGO's.

5. (SBU) Mac Guinness expressed interest in obtaining a breakdown of the Iraq Reconstruction Budget, after learning that Admiral Nash, Director of the Program Management Office

for the Reconstruction of Iraq, had been in Amman. The Embassy's Iraq Support Unit Officer, who had been one of Admiral Nash's control officers, advised Mac Guinness that the budget consisted of USD 6 billion for "Non-Construction" efforts (Goods and Services) and USD 12 billion for "Construction", i.e., oil, water, electricity, security, justice, buildings, and health.

COMMENT

16. (SBU) Mac Guinness was appreciative of the U.S. Embassy interest in attending the UNAMI briefings. She confided that dealing with CPA Baghdad is a challenging prospect and hoped the U.S. Embassy in Amman would be able to provide the necessary contact information and access they require in the future. As cluster groups broaden beyond UN-only meetings, we recommend that CPA and/or relevant Iraqi ministries send personnel to participate in these Amman meetings. End Comment.

17. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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